



03500.010695.2

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YASUE SATO, ET AL.) Examiner: K. Guharay
Application No.: 09/361,963) Group Art Unit: 2879
Filed: July 28, 1999)
For: IMAGE-FORMING APPARATUS) April 15, 2002
HAVING VENT TUBE AND GETTER:)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
APR 17 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

Applicants are submitting herewith the following remarks in support of the patentability of Claims 9-15.

REMARKS

Claims 9-15 are presented for consideration. Claim 9 is the sole independent claim.

All of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Iwasaki '347. This rejection is traversed on the grounds that Iwasaki does not qualify as prior art against the subject application.